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SECRET SENSITIVE
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
ASSISTANT SECRETARY

November 9, 1962

SECRET - SENSITIVE

TO: G - Mr. Johnson

FROM: IO - Woodruff Wallner [initials]

SUBJECT: Cuba - Russian Protest
Appeal to Castro

1. Charlie Yost called me to report that before lunch the Soviets came in for a ten minute meeting which was devoted exclusively to a strong protest on their part against what they alleged to be the arbitrary and illegitimate interference of three of their vessels by US destroyers. The Soviets stated that two of their vessels were carrying missiles and were on their list but had already been subject to along-side examination by other US naval units; the third Russian vessel was not on their list and therefore was not, in their view, subject to the along-side procedures. The Russians claimed that our ships had behaved in a threatening manner and had created a dangerous situation. Admiral Wellborn was present at the meeting and immediately got in touch with the CNO. Ambassador Stevenson also called Ros Gilpatrick. Charlie Yost thinks that the matter has been straightened out but was not sure it had been reported to the Department.

2. Ralph Bunche told Charlie Noyes this morning that U Thant had Lechuga in yesterday afternoon to present his appeal to Castro to let the five Latin American ambassadors in Havana serve as an inspection team to verify the departure of offensive weapons. Lechuga received the proposal sympathetically and promised to pass it along promptly to Castro. No reply has yet been received from Havana.

cc: Secretary
Mr. Ball
S/S

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